

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 121 SUPPORTS PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 1997*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I will be returning home this weekend for a particularly happy event. To celebrate the Cambodian New Year and the beginning of the Year of the Ox, we are expecting between 40,000 and 50,000 people from all over America to attend a 3-day celebration in my congressional district, home to the largest Cambodian community in America. Unfortunately, in Cambodia itself, this New Year does not come with the same joy we will see in California.

According to news reports, many families have stayed at home rather than risk their personal safety by attending festivals or touring in cities, particularly in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Fear of violence has returned to the daily life of many Cambodians as relations between the two leading political parties have plummeted.

On March 30 of this year, Sam Rainsy, the leader of the Khmer Nation Party, was the target of a grenade attack that killed 19 and injured more than 100, including Ron Abney, an American who was in Cambodia working on behalf of the International Republican Institute to advance the cause of democracy. Sam Rainsy was only slightly injured in this attack. Sadly, those of us who championed the victory of the democratic process in Cambodia leading up to the free elections in 1993 are now watching the unraveling of peace and democracy in Cambodia.

Following the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements, the United States worked closely to help the people of Cambodia create an environment that would allow democracy to prosper. In the 1993 elections, more than 93 percent of eligible voters turned out to the polls. In the period following these elections, the people of Cambodia made great strides to bring greater prosperity and security to their land. Now, we are seeing these gains slip, causing increasing concern in Cambodia and in the United States. The elections expected in 1998 must not fall victim to attempts by undemocratic forces to turn back the gains made in this decade and plunge Cambodia back into chaos and violence.

Today, I am introducing House Resolution 121 with my distinguished colleagues BEN GILMAN, chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and DOUG BEREUTER, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. Both have been leaders in the long effort to establish democracy and peace in Cambodia. The United States must continue to help the people of Cambodia advance the democratic process and do so in an unbiased manner so that the people of Cambodia choose representatives who they want to lead them. We are introducing this resolution to ex-

press our deep concern over the events occurring in Cambodia and our concern for where these events may lead, while expressing our sympathy to the individuals wounded in the attack of March 30 and to the families of those killed. It condemns this incident as the act of terrorism that it was.

House Resolution 121 calls upon our Government to offer assistance to Cambodian officials to help track down and prosecute those responsible for the attack and calls upon the Cambodian Government to accept this offer. Finally, it calls upon all political parties in Cambodia to renounce and condemn all forms of political violence. The right of the people of Cambodia to choose their future without coercion must be maintained.

I know that many Members of this House also are committed to democracy and peace in Cambodia. We encourage you to cosponsor this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that House Resolution 121 be printed at the end of my remarks:

Whereas Cambodia continues to recover from more than three decades of recent warfare, including the genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979;

Whereas Cambodia was the beneficiary of a massive international effort to ensure peace, democracy, and prosperity after the October 1991 Paris Peace Agreements on Cambodia;

Whereas more than 93 percent of the Cambodians eligible to vote in the 1993 elections in Cambodia did so, thereby demonstrating the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy;

Whereas since those elections, Cambodia has made significant economic progress which has contributed to economic stability in Cambodia;

Whereas since those elections, the Cambodia Armed Forces have significantly diminished the threat posed by the Khmer Rouge to safety and stability in Cambodia;

Whereas other circumstances in Cambodia, including the recent unsolved murder of journalists and political party activists, the recent unsolved attack of party officials of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic in 1995, and the quality of the judicial system—described in a 1996 United Nations report as "thoroughly corrupt"—raise international concern for the state of democracy in Cambodia;

Whereas Sam Rainsy, the leader of the Khmer Nation Party, was the target of a terrorist grenade attack on March 30, 1997, during a demonstration outside the Cambodia National Assembly;

Whereas the attack killed 19 Cambodians and wounded more than 100 men, women, and children; and

Whereas among those injured was Ron Abney, a United States citizen and employee of the International Republican Institute who was assisting in the advancement of democracy in Cambodia and observing the demonstration: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its sincerest sympathies to the families of the persons killed, and the persons wounded, in the March 30, 1997, terrorist grenade attack outside the Cambodia National Assembly;

(2) condemns the attack as an act of terrorism detrimental to peace and the development of democracy in Cambodia;

(3) calls upon the United States Government to offer to the Cambodia Government all appropriate assistance in identifying and prosecuting those responsible for the attack;

(4) calls upon the Cambodia Government to accept such assistance and to expeditiously identify and prosecute those responsible for the attack; and

(5) calls upon all Cambodian political parties to renounce and condemn all forms of political violence.

## RECOGNITION OF MR. JASON WONG

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 1997*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in commending Mr. Jason Wong, a senior at the Abraham Lincoln High School and the recipient of the Congressional Youth Excellence Award in the 12th Congressional District of California.

Mr. Wong's scholastic achievements are impressive indeed. He has maintained a high grade point average while taking challenging classes, and he ranks in the top 10 students in his high school class. His academic excellence has been recognized by his earning Golden State Exam honors in algebra and chemistry.

In addition to his impressive academic achievements, Mr. Wong has taken an active role in community service. He is the president of the Lincs Service Society, as well as a volunteer tutor at Ulloa Elementary School. He is a member of the Red Cross Club, American Culture Club, the International Committee against Racism, and the Chemistry Club. He has served as vice-president, secretary, and treasurer of the California Scholarship Federation, as well as a volunteer for the San Francisco Annual Chinese New Year Parade.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Jason Wong for his outstanding service to our community and congratulating him for his academic achievements.

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE CHARLES A. HAYES OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUIS STOKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 1997*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our distinguished colleague from Illinois, BOBBY RUSH, for reserving this special order. We gather to pay tribute to our good friend and former colleague, Charles Hayes, who passed away on April 8, 1997. We join members of his family, the people of Illinois, and others throughout the Nation in mourning his death.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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